

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 L-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

RSC-01 EB-03 SP-01 PRS-01 NSC-07 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /051 W

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P R 072128Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6366

INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 1042

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, PFOR, TD

SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PM WILLIAMS--MINISTERIAL DIALOGUE ON
CARIBBEAN AVIATION RIGHTS

REF: A. POS 1040 NOTAL

B. POS 1013 AND 1014

1. DURING MEETING WITH PRIMIN WILLIAMS ON MAY 7 (REF A) HE
RECAPITULATED PRINCIPAL ASPECTS OF HIS LETTER TO SECRETARY
KISSINGER (REF B) ON EMERGING PROBLEMS OF AVIATION RIGHTS IN
CARIBBEAN REGION.

2. I INFORMED PM THAT USG WOULD BE PLEASED TO RECEIVE INDUSTRY
AND COMMERCE MINISTER MAHABIR DURING WEEK OF MAY 13 TO DISCUSS
PROBLEM WITH APPROPRIATE USG OFFICIALS (STATE 93043). WILLIAMS
WAS PLEASED AT THIS PROMPT RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR SUCH MEETING
BUT WAS PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN WHAT WE CONSIDERED "APPROPRIATE"
LEVEL OF US OFFICIALDOM, NOTING HE WAS SENDING ONE OF TOP
MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET. IN RESPONSE I ASSURED HIM THAT UNDOUBTEDLY
MAHABIR WOULD MEET INTER ALIA WITH AT LEAST ASSISTANT
SECRETARY OF STATE. THIS HE FOUND SATISFACTORY, BUT WAS
OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED THAT MAHABIR NOT MAKE TRIP AND THEN SEE ONLY
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OFFICIALS BELOW PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEE LEVEL.

3. WILLIAMS STRESSED THAT DIALOGUE ON AVIATION SHOULD ENCOMPASS BROAD OVERVIEW OF PROBLEM AND NOT JUST FOCUS ON WHAT IS GOOD FOR CERTAIN CARRIERS. IN THIS CONNECTION HE CITED SECRETARY'S BROAD GRASP OF WORLD SITUATION AND THE INTERDEPENDENCE BOTH OF NATIONS AND OF DIFFERENT FACETS OF NATIONAL POLICY.

4. HE SAID HE DID NOT ACCUSE USG AS PRIME CAUSE OF AVIATION MALAISE IN CARIBBEAN, BUT STATED THAT CANADA (VIS A VIS AIR JAMAICA) AND UK WERE REAL CULPRITS IN BRINGING PRESENT PROBLEMS WHICH WERE EITHER BEFORE CAB FOR DECISION OR ON WHICH USG HAD DIRECT INFLUENCE.

5. AT WILLIAMS' REQUEST, I CONTACTED MAHABIR DIRECTLY AFTER OUR CONVERSATION. IF APPROPRIATE APPOINTMENTS CAN BE ARRANGED AS SUGGESTED, MAHABIR WILL TRAVEL TO US ON SUNDAY, MAY 12, AND WOULD PREFER WASHINGTON APPOINTMENTS TO BE SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY AND THURSDAY, MAY 15-16.

6. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF PM'S ALERTNESS TO LEVEL AT WHICH MAHABIR IS RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON, HOPE ONE OR MORE APPOINTMENTS CAN BE ARRANGED AT ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEVEL OR HIGHER IN STATE. LOGICAL CHOICES MIGHT INCLUDE EB, ARA, OR D. REQUEST TELEGRAPHIC OUTLINE OF PROBABLE APPOINTMENT SCHEDULE BE TRANSMITTED TO US BY EARLY FRIDAY SO THAT I MAY BE ABLE TO CONVEY THIS INFORMATION TO MAHABIR AND ALSO PROVIDE HIM WITH INFORMATION ON POINTS OF CONTACT. APPRECIATE DEPT'S QUICK RESPONSE WHICH ENABLED ME TO ASSURE PM TODAY THAT MAHABIR WOULD BE RECEIVED FOR DISCUSSIONS NEXT WEEK.

7. OBVIOUSLY MAHABIR WILL BE ABLE TO SPEAK WITH GREAT AUTHORITY FOR GOTT AND WILLIAMS INDICATED TO ME THAT HIS OWN PRESENCE IN NEW YORK NEXT WEEK WOULD ENABLE HE AND MAHABIR TO CONFER DURING COURSE OF MAHABIR'S CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON.
MILLER

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